

Mammal or Seabird Entanglement Protocol
NOAA Fisheries Panama City Laboratory

If an entanglement of any marine mammal occurs, follow these guidelines:

Live Marine Mammal

- Notify the captain and call the emergency stranding pager immediately – 305-862-2850.
- Report the location (Lat/Long) and the degree of entanglement.
- Try to determine if there is another marine mammal in the vicinity (mother or calf).
- Estimate the feasibility of disentanglement.
- Put the offshore coordinator in contact with the captain – Blair Mase 305-862-2850.
- Do not get in the water or attempt disentanglement without speaking with the offsite coordinator.

Dead Marine Mammal

- Notify the captain and call the emergency stranding pager immediately – 305-862-2850.
- Put the offshore coordinator in contact with the captain – Blair Mase 305-862-2850.
- Take photographs of the marine mammal and any distinguishing characteristics (callosities, flukes).
- If determined feasible, bring the animal on board and bring it back to shore – someone will be there from the Miami Lab.
- If the animal is a large whale and cannot be brought on board, work with the offsite coordinator to help arrange to tow the animal in. The captain may be requested by the offsite coordinator to remain with the animal (or at least attach a radar deflector or buoys).

If the captain is unwilling to cooperate with any of the above procedures, the observer will be required to document the events.